A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE FOREIGN RAIL BORNE TRADE OF THE STATE DURING 1923-24.

The total value of the Foreign Rail-borne Trade of the State during the year ending 31st March was estimated at Rs. 26·52 crores, as against Rs. 26·28 crores in 1922-23 and Rs. 27·39 crores in 1921-22. The imports of private merchandise during the year were valued at Rs. 12·48 crores as against Rs. 13·65 crores in 1922-23. The exports of private merchandise rose in value from Rs. 9·58 crores in 1922-23 to Rs. 10·34 crores during the year. The total exports of treasure amounted to Rs. 3·29 crores as compared with Rs. 2·69 crores in 1922-23. The imports of treasure recorded a slight decrease from Rs. 40·20 lakhs in 1922-23 to Rs. 39·87 lakhs during the year under review. Calculated on the basis of the Railway returns the balance of trade which had gone against the State to the extent of Rs. 178 lakhs in 1922-23 turned in favour of the State to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs in 1923-24.

The year under report witnessed distinct signs of recovery in the foreign trade of the State from the depression of the earlier years. The unsatisfactory condition of the monsoons during the last two years has tended to retard the return of trade to its normal channels. There was good demand from outside for the surplus raw products of the State and the prices were on the whole free from violent fluctuations. The accumulation of stocks of the earlier years and a decrease in the purchasing power of the consumers due to adverse seasonal conditions affected the import trade to a considerable extent.

As compared with the year 1922-23, there was an increase in the imports of grains, pulses and rice and decreases were recorded under cotton goods, chemicals, machinery, coal and coke, provisions and sugar. There was an advance in the exports of hides and skins, silk, coffee, jaggery, cardamom, spices and manufactured articles. The exports of cotton goods, fruits and vegetables, ragi, oilseeds, drugs and tanning materials recorded a slight decrease.

The seasonal conditions of the year were not satisfactory. Though the total rainfall of the year was well above the average, the rains were neither timely nor well distributed. In the Malnad Districts there were very heavy floods causing considerable damage to the standing crops. The total area cropped during the year was 61·44 lakhs of acres as compared with 64·61 lakhs of acres in 1922-23. There was a noticeable shrinkage in the area cultivated under food grains especially under rice, jawar and ragi. There were slight decreases in the areas cultivated under sugar-cane and coffee. The cultivation of ground-nuts and castor seeds and also of cotton and tobacco showed a slight expansion during the year.

Food, Drink and Tobacco.—The total imports of grains, and pulses amounted to 28,11,483 Mds. valued at Rs. 2,25,81,257. As compared with 1922-23 there was an increase in quantity by 4,96,189 Mds. and in value by Rs. 41,95,736. The imports of rice amounted to 15,61,811 Mds. valued at Rs. 1,23,41,721. The exports of ragi declined to 2,66,415 Mds. valued at Rs. 9,84,720. Under jawar and bajra there was an increase in the exports from 116,258 Mds. valued at Rs. 4,54,559 in 1922-23 to 258,623 Mds. valued at Rs. 10,06,918 during the year. Under fruits and vegetables there was a decrease in the quantities exported from 5,13,117 Mds. valued at Rs. 59,32,915 in 1922-23 to 4,84,664 Mds. valued at Rs. 58,15,968. The total production of cured coffee in the State during the year was estimated at 1,36,85,213 pounds of which 31,39,280 lbs. were exported by rail as against 19,95,676 lbs. in 1922-23. The imports of refined sugar rose from 87,352 Mds. valued at Rs. 16,53,834 in 1922-23 to 95,328 Mds. valued at Rs. 18,61,628 in 1923-24. There was a noticeable increase in the total quantity of jaggery exported from the State. The exports went up during the year to 448,069 Mds. valued at Rs. 35,49,111 from 253,303 Mds. valued at Rs. 22,81,954 in 1922-23. More than a third of the total exports was consigned to Madras Port for being shipped abroad. The total net imports of salt by rail fell from 8,71,697 Mds. in 1922-23 to 6,90,013 Mds. of which 588,900 Mds. were received from Bombay. Under spices, chillies and coriander imported recorded a slight increase. The total value of betelnuts exported to Rs. 72,78,000 as against Rs. 52,71,000 in 1922-23. The exports of cardamom rose from 6,638 Mds. valued at Rs. 11,52,411 to 8,214 Mds. valued at Rs. 16,92,790 in 1923-24. The imports of tobacco during the year went up to 1,17,758 Mds. valued at Rs. 44,45,365 and the total value of the exports of cigarettes amounted to Rs. 48,43,640.

Raw Materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.—The imports of coal and coke recorded a slight decline as compared with the previous year chiefly due to a fall in the consumption of coal by the railways and the mining companies. 30·64 lakhs of maunds of coal were imported valued at Rs. 36·39 lakhs as against 37·54 lakhs of maunds valued at Rs. 46·51 lakhs in 1922-23. There was however an improvement in the consumption of the public coal as the total quantity taken during the year rose to 4,16,149 Mds. from 3,66,000 Mds. in the previous year due to increased demand from industrial concerns in the State.

There was an increase in the imports and exports of raw cotton. 1,47,567 Mds. of raw cotton were imported valued at Rs. 84,85,237 as against 1,25,274 Mds. valued at Rs. 59,62,007 in

1922-23. Raw cotton exported rose from 79,227 Mds. valued at Rs. 38,12,548 in the previous year to 1,49,037 Mds. valued at Rs. 85,17,146 in 1923-24. The exports were mainly to the seaports of Bombay and Madras. The price of cotton was subject to great fluctuations throughout the year. During the year under review there was also a noticeable increase in the exports of raw silk and silk waste. 8,98,000 lbs. of raw silk were exported valued at Rs. 1,00,81,605 as against 6,24,900 lbs. valued at Rs. 83,44,600 in 1922-23. The rise in the exports is due to an increase in the output of raw silk consequent on an extension in the area cultivated under mulberry in the previous year. The total output of raw silk is estimated at 11,36,000 lbs. in 1922-23 and 12,07,000 lbs. in 1922-23. Silk waste exported amounted to 7,557 Mds. valued at Rs. 6,04,560 as compared with 5,110 Mds. valued at Rs. 4,08,600 in 1922-23. Regarding the export trade in other fibres hemp recorded a decline from 4,875 Mds. to 3,149 Mds. in 1923-24 and aloe fibre a slight increase from 871 Mds. to 1,625 Mds.

The trade in hides and skins saw a considerable improvement during the year. 65,060 Mds. of tanned hides and leather were exported by rail as against 47,238 Mds. in 1922-23. The total value of the year's exports was estimated at Rs. 58,49,190. The exports of raw skins amounted to 70,305 Mds. valued at Rs.34,71,210 as compared with 53,861 Mds. valued at Rs. 19,28,648 in 1922-23. All through the year there was a steady demand from foreign countries for tanned hides and raw skins.

The imports of kerosine oil during the year amounted to 27,10,803 gallons in tins and 13,58,324 gallons in bulk, the total value being estimated at Rs. 40,78,193. As compared with the year 1922-23 there was an increase in the quantity of kerosine oil imported by 298,076 gallons and in value by Rs. 1,31,246. The chief features in the import trade in vegetable oils were increases under cocoanut and groundnut oils and decreases under gingelly and castor oils. The prices of vegetable oil during the last quarter of the calendar year 1923 were subject to fluctuations in sympathy with the prices of oil seeds.

The export of oil seeds showed a slight improvement during the year. The total weight amounted to 6,18,227 Mds. as against 5,81,624 Mds. in 1922-23. As compared with the previous year there were increases under cotton seeds and the decreases under gingelly and groundnuts. 1,78,312 Mds. of copra valued at Rs. 46,12,314 were exported during the year as against 1,95,646 Mds. valued at Rs. 42,38,492 in 1922-23. The average price of copra per maund of 25 lbs. rose from Rs. 7-12-0 in April 1923 to Rs. 8-8-0 in December of the same year and to Rs. 9 during the first quarter of the year 1924. There was an increase in the exports of oil cakes from 56,754 Mds. in 1922-23 to 91,619 Mds. in 1923-24 partly due to increased activities of the oil mills in the State and partly to a decline in the local demand brought about by adverse seasonal conditions.

The trade in timber continued to remain in a depressed condition throughout the year. 7,221 maunds of sandalwood chiefly from the Coorg and Madras forests were carried by rail. The total quantity of sandalwood oil exported out of the State during the year amounted to 131,427 lbs. valued at Rs. 21,68,543 as against 1,35,511 lbs. valued at Rs. 22,35,931 in 1922-23. 29,345 Mds. of myrabolams were exported during the year as against 22,387 Mds. in 1922-23. The imports of turmeric, cutch and indigo recorded slight increases.

Articles wholly or mainly manufactured :—

The trade in piecegoods was affected to a considerable extent by the presence of large stocks on hand, the reduced purchasing power of the consumers and the stringency in the money market. The total value of Indian piecegoods imported during the year amounted to Rs. 1,06,06,560 and the total value of the exports amounted to Rs. 49,12,920. The hand loom weaving industry in the State has also been passing through a period of depression. The total quantity of yarn available for the use of the handloom weavers in the State amounted to 40,93,315 lbs in 1923-24 as against 44,24,427 lbs in 1922-23. The total output of yarn by the textile mills in the State amounted to 64,83,286 lbs. in 1923-24 as against 50,95,152 lbs. in 1922-23. The exports of woollen goods rose in value from Rs. 17,71,950 in 1922-23 to Rs. 21,50,690 in 1923-24.

The total imports of iron and steel fell from 4,24,530 Mds. valued at Rs. 60,91,169 in 1922-23 to 3,45,049 Mds. valued at Rs. 42,94,939. There was a reduction in the imports of angles, bars and beams and also of sheets and plates. The trade in metals other than iron and steel showed signs of recovery. The imports of machinery and mill work suffered a further drop during the year. There was a slight increase in the imports of materials for railway construction as fish plates and sleepers. The total value of the exports of metallic ores during the year amounted to Rs. 14,27,006. The total weight of manganese ore exported was 13,73,371 Mds. as against 24,92,605 Mds. in 1922-23. The exports of chrome declined from 9,58,255 Mds. to 7,58,196 Mds. in 1923-24.

As compared with the previous year there was some improvement in the trade in the manufactured articles as glassware, earthenware, candles, arms, lampware, soap, paints, etc., but due to fall in prices there was no great variation in the total value even though there were increases in the quantities imported. These articles are imported partly to meet the requirements of the State and partly for the purposes of being re-exported to the adjacent districts in British India.

There was a slight increase in the imports of matches into the State. The net imports of matches during the year amounted to 4,94,475 gross boxes against 4,76,064 gross boxes in 1922-23.

The total value of drugs and medicines imported was estimated at Rs. 37,66,500 as against Rs. 56,80,000 in 1922-23. The exports were valued at Rs. 32,93,131 as against Rs. 26,49,600 in the previous year. There was an increase in the imports of alizarine and aniline colours. The imports rose from 728 Mds. valued at Rs. 1,23,579 in 1922-23 to 1,585 Mds. valued at Rs. 2,06,050. The increase in the quantities imported is chiefly due to a further fall in prices caused by the reductions in prices of supplies received from Germany. The average value per pound of alizarine dyes was Re. 0-13-0 and of aniline dyes was Rs. 1-14-0.

Treasure:—

The total quantity of silver bullion imported last year rose to 4,79,820 ounces (troy) valued at Rs. 10,77,000 from 4,05,222 ounces (troy) valued at Rs. 11,14,361 in 1922-23. The increase in the imports of silver during the past 2 years is chiefly due to a fall in price. The price of silver has steadily gone down from Rs. 94-4-0 per 100 tolas in March 1922 to Rs. 80-14-0 in March 1924. The total quantity of gold exported from the State during the year ending March 1924 was 3,61,631 ounces (troy) valued at Rs. 2,45,39,130. The total output of gold in the State during the calendar year 1923 was 4,22,501 ounces as against 4,29,559 ounces in 1922 valued at £1,754,895 and £1,789,432 respectively. The average market price of gold in 1923-24 stood at Rs. 67-8-0 per fine ounce as against Rs. 68 in the year before.

P. G. D'SOUZA,
Director of Industries and Commerce.

EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

Notification No. D1. *Dis*, 110, *dated* 11*th April* 1925.

In virtue of the power delegated to him by Government in their Notification No. Fl 485—Ex. 61-21-13, dated 19th July 1923, the Excise Commissioner hereby prohibits, under Section 9 of the Mysore Excise Regulation, V of 1901, the transport of arrack in any quantity by any person from any of the shops comprised in the area where a lower rate of duty is levied into the area where a higher rate of duty is levied.

2. In the City of Bangalore (which includes, for levy of duty on arrack, a radius of 5 miles from the Municipal limits of City and Civil and Military Station) and also in Mysore City and in the Bowringpet Taluk, the higher rate of Rs. 6-8-0 is levied on a gallon of arrack of 35° U. P. and in the rest of the State, the lower rate of duty of Rs. 5-8-0 is evied.

3. This prohibition will come into effect from 1st July 1925.

4. Any person infringing the above will render himself liable to prosecution under Section 55 of the Excise Regulation.

V. R. THYAGARAJA IYER,
Excise Commissioner in Mysore.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, SHIMOGA DISTRICT.

Memo No. J. C. 373—24-25, *dated* 14*th April* 1925.

The Superintendent of Industries, Shimoga District, is appointed Examiner of all Motor vehicles which are intended to be let or to ply for hire in this district and he is authorized to examine them as laid down in para 4 of Form "G" of Mysore Motor Vehicles Rules, 1924, and grant certificates of their fitness for use on the road.

A. K. SYED TAJ PEERAN,
District Magistrate.